The folks of the region know the History For instance take the Story of the Edmonton Brass Cannon.

In 1885 there was great unrest among the Indians of Alberta in sympathy with the uprisings elsewhere. After the fight at Duck Lake on March 26th the Indians showed signs of hostility and rumors and unrest among the settlers spread with great rapidity. Along the Saskatchewan, at Red Deer, Beaver Lake, Battle River and other points in central Alberta the Indians were pillaging and plundering. On April 2nd at Frog Lake, Big Bear's band scalped a number of settlers and carried off the rest. (Incidently, at Frog Lake to-day you can see the graves of these settlers, the cellars of their homes, and pick up hand made nails and bits of broken china.) Major General Strange and Major Perry set out from Calgary with a detachment of soldiers and a nine pound cannon for which a road had to be cut most of the way to Edmonton. Captain Stiff organized the Edmonton Home Guard assisted by Chief Factor Macdougall who was in charge of Fort Edmonton. News that Riel had called on all the Indian tribes to rebel and that Poundmaker's men had arisen hastened the defence of Fort Edmonton and all arms and amunition in the district were collected. Inspector Griesbach who was in command of the Mounted Police at Fort Saskatchewan took command of the Edmonton district. From Edmonton the detachments of soldiers and Mounted Police spread out to Frog Lake, Fort Pitt, Frenchman's Butte and Loon Lake. Eventually the mutinous Indians were quelled and Big Bear was captured.

At this time rumors, tales of scalpings and other atrocities spread like wildfire among the Edmonton people. Word came in that there was a huge Indian encampment on Miner's Flats (where the gravel pit and togobban slide are now) and that the Indians, besmeared with war-paint were engaged in war-dances.

The Mounties were sent out to investigate and found not a single Indian. Nonetheless the rumors persisted. Fort Edmonton was the sight of feverish activity. All guns and amunition were collected and it was decided to load the two heavy brass cannon which stood outside the palisade facing south across the ford in the river. (Incidentally one of these cannon stood in the garden of Mrs. Harrison Young's home on 107th street for many years.).

It was some time since the cannon had been loaded and no one around the Fort could remember how they should be primed. Malcolm Groat who had been an old whaler was called in to superintend the job. His memory too was dim and he could not remember whether it should be 1 lb. of powder and 5 lbs. of shot, 5 lbs. of powder and 1 lb. of shot, or 5 lbs. of powder and 5 lbs. of shot. After much discussion it was decided that the larger the amount of each the more effective would be the charge. Consequently the cannon were loaded with 5 lbs. of powder and 5 lbs. of shot.

It is history now of course that the Indians never attacked Fort Edmonton. Gradually, as tales of the success at Fort Pitt, Frenchman's Butte, etc. came in the normal activities of the settlement were resumed. The Mounties eventually went out to the nearest encampment in the Edmonton district and smoked the pipe of peace and buried the hatchet. The Factor of the Fort decided that all danger was past and that the loaded cannon were a menaae. The question was "could the cannon be unloaded or would it be simpler to fire them?" Whether there was any question in their minds as to whether the charge was correctly proportioned or not has never been told.

A crowd gathered around, the light was applied and those in the gathering swear that for some time they thought the whole world had exploded. The cannon blew back and lodged in the palisade of the Fort, everything within a radius of yards behind the cannon was flattened to the ground. What happened to the shot? Those present on that occasion swear that it is still travelling around the world for, though they searched high and low on the south side of the river, none of the shot was ever recovered.

Know your City.
Record movement on foot to
frontify.
Erect a small monument
to the Pioneers & Troppers -
Men of the North
Fine Thing.
Hope it can be done
See your City with
a fackward & a
forward look.